

### **1. Why should students read the short story *Three Questions* by Leo Tolstoy?**

Students should read *Three Questions* because it teaches valuable life lessons about time, duty, and kindness. The story helps us understand that the most important time is the present moment, the most important person is the one we are with, and the most important work is to do good to others. It encourages selflessness, compassion, and mindfulness in daily life. By reading this story, students learn how to live meaningfully, make wise decisions, and understand true wisdom comes from actions, not words. It is simple yet deeply inspiring for young minds.

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### **2. What were the three questions?**

The Tsar had three important questions in his mind. First, he wanted to know what was the right time to begin everything. Second, he wanted to know who were the most important people to work with. Third, he wanted to know what was the most important thing to do. The Tsar believed that if he found correct answers to these questions, he would never fail in anything he did. These three questions were meant to help him rule his kingdom wisely and live a successful, peaceful life.

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### **3. What answers were received from the so-called wise men?**

The so-called wise men gave many different answers, but none satisfied the Tsar. Some said the right time to act could be known only by using a council of wise men. Others said one should plan everything in advance. Some thought the most important people were counsellors, priests, or doctors. A few believed soldiers were the most necessary. For the third question, some said science was most important, while others said religious worship was. The Tsar was not pleased, as all answers were confusing and lacked practical sense. So he decided to find a true answer elsewhere.

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### **4. After getting unsatisfactory answers, what did the Tsar do and why?**

After hearing different and confusing answers from the wise men, the Tsar became disappointed. None of their answers seemed useful or practical. So, he decided to visit a hermit who was known for his great wisdom and simplicity. The Tsar believed that the hermit, being a holy man who lived close to nature and truth, could give him the right answers. He went alone, dressed in simple clothes, leaving behind his guards and servants, to show humility and to seek real wisdom rather than flattery or false advice from others.

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### **5. How did the king get all the answers he wanted to know?**

The king got all his answers through his actions, not through direct words. While helping the hermit dig the ground, he unknowingly met the man who would later try to kill him. The king saved that man's life by bandaging his wound, showing kindness and compassion. Later, the

hermit explained that by doing so, the Tsar had found his answers: the most important time is *now*, the most important person is *the one you are with*, and the most important work is *to do good*. Thus, his experience itself became his lesson.

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#### **6. What is the moral of the story?**

The moral of *Three Questions* is that wisdom lies in simple truths. The story teaches that the most important time is the present, the most important person is the one near us, and the most important work is to do good to others. It reminds us that life becomes meaningful when we act with kindness, awareness, and compassion. It also shows that true wisdom comes from experience and service, not from pride or position. Tolstoy beautifully conveys that living in the moment and helping others lead to true peace and happiness.

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#### **7. How did the hermit give explanation to the third question?**

The hermit explained the third question through the Tsar's own experience. He told the Tsar that the most important work is to do good for the person who is with you. When the Tsar helped the wounded man, he did the most valuable thing at that moment. By saving his enemy's life, the Tsar turned hatred into friendship. The hermit wanted the Tsar to understand that helping others brings true happiness and peace. So, the hermit's explanation was not through lecture but through practical experience that taught the Tsar the real meaning of good deeds.

#### **8. What is the modern relevance of the story *Three Questions*?**

The story *Three Questions* remains highly relevant in today's fast and busy world. It teaches us to focus on the present moment instead of worrying about the past or future. In modern life, where people often rush for success and forget kindness, the story reminds us that time, relationships, and good deeds matter most. It encourages mindfulness, compassion, and responsibility. Just like the Tsar, people today can find peace and happiness by helping others, living meaningfully, and valuing human connections over power or wealth. Tolstoy's message is timeless and guides modern society toward simple wisdom.